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Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities

Statement submitted by Droit à l'énergie SOS futur, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2005/100.

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Statement

Our organization acts everywhere in the world where, due to underdevelopment and non-existent infrastructure, there is no access to electricity. It also acts in developed countries, in Europe, in France, where precariousness deprives men and women of this essential good. In this framework, it has formulated a number of proposals:

1) Institution of a global electrification agency:

In the area of access to energy and in particular to electricity we propose the institution of a single world agency designed to play a threefold role:

- *Political:* Under the aegis of the United Nations, this body should assess projects defined on the basis of the local context where the needs are recorded. Its mission should be to define priorities in terms of overall objectives previously discussed with the local and regional actors and all concerned parties.

- *Financial:* This body is to be commissioned to negotiate and raise the necessary funds among the relevant international agencies (IMF, World Bank, Regional Development Banks, etc.). It is to be responsible for setting up the most appropriate financial arrangements in terms of the existing needs and situations and for soliciting the involvement of public and private operators. It is to offer a guarantee on the investments made by operators, on certain conditions: manpower is to be trained and the operation and management of the facilities are to be transferred to the local actors according to a programmed schedule.

- *Technological:* This body could rely on technological expertise for advice or validation of the decided projects.

2) Institution of an observatory of fossil resources, considered as part of the World Heritage of Humankind:

The announced rarefaction of fossil resources should lead to drawing up an assessment of fossil resources. Knowledge of the reserves is a decisive factor in guiding energy choices on the global scale. It will constitute valuable aid for decision-making and forecasting.

3) Institution of new criteria for the evaluation of companies:

Our NGO proposes the institution of new criteria for the evaluation of companies, along the model of the Human Development Index set up by UNDP, which are to include the environmental dimension. This latter, added to the usual economic and social evaluations, could determine the rates for financial loans.

4) Public-Private Partnership:

For a number of developing countries, the means needed to access investments in the infrastructure and for energy production and distribution are much greater than their financing capacity. Contribution from companies in the energy sector is indispensable.

In this framework, it is important that the policies defined by governments and/or regions should be clear and feature specific rules, defined in particular with regard to their public service and/or general interest missions: unitary tariff, fixing of the kW rate, etc.

On the other hand, it is necessary to be able to provide a number of guarantees to industrial partners investing in these countries. These guarantees should cover the financial risk as well as the risks related to political instability.

We recommend multilateral partnerships:

- At the national level, with the governments, which define the country's energy policy and fix the regulatory framework for operations. The partnership can be set up, for instance, with the ministry in charge of the country's energy policy.

- At the local level, with the key stakeholders, which are in the best position to identify precisely the specific needs and priorities in the area of access to energy, in particular in the rural world.

- Local organizations: NGOs, a necessary link with the social fabric and allowing the population to be part of the choices and decisions made in energy policy matters.

- Operators of the sector, which can provide their technical know-how as well as part of the necessary financing capacities.

- Droit à l'énergie SOS futur, whose role will be to validate and label these projects.

The sum of guarantees as well as the multi-partnership nature of the projects will generate the climate of trust that is indispensable to draw the necessary financing.